

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Association meeting held at on 31 March 2006 at Havant Borough Council at 10.00 am.

### **Present:**

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| Basingstoke and Deane                             | G Holdcroft (Chief Executive)   |
| East Hampshire                                    | Councillor E Cartwright (Chairman)<br>W Godfrey (Chief Executive)   |
| Eastleigh   | R Tambini (Deputy Chief Executive)  |
| Fareham   | Councillor S Woodward<br>A Davies (Chief Executive)   |
| Gosport   | Councillor A Hayward<br>Councillor M Hook<br>I Lycett (Chief Executive)   |
| Hampshire   | Councillor A Rice TD<br>Councillor M Woodhall<br>P Robertson (Chief Executive)<br>R Rutt (Environment Department)<br>M Denton-Thompson (Environment Department) |
| Hart  | Councillor S Parker<br>V Evans (Interim Chief Executive)  |
| Havant  | Councillor A Briggs<br>G Andrews (Managing Director)  |
| New Forest  | Councillor M Kendal<br>D Yates (Chief Executive)  |
| Rushmoor  | Councillor P Moyle (Vice-Chairman)<br>A Lloyd (Chief Executive)   |
| Southampton                                       | H Pavey (Corporate Policy and Performance Division)   |
| Test Valley                                       | R Tetstall (Chief Executive)  |
| Winchester  | Councillor S Campbell<br>Councillor T Evans<br>S Eden (Chief Executive)   |
| Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils | Councillor D Bidwell<br>S Lugg (Director)   |
| Eastleigh Community Services                      | K Dufton  |

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| Hampshire Fire and Rescue                                | Councillor M Cartwright                          |
| Hampshire Police Authority                               | C Morley   |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association | N Goulder (Director)<br>D Allen (PA to Director) |

**Also in attendance:**

|  |          |
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| Single Non-Emergency Number Project Team | R Gibson |
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**13.06 WELCOME**

The Mayor of Havant, Councillor Cyril Hilton, welcomed all those present to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Jennifer McNeill, the new Regional Director of South East Employers to the meeting.

**14.06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gurden and Harvey (Basingstoke and Deane); Councillor A Pattie (East Hampshire); Councillor P Wall (Eastleigh); C Evans (GOSE); Councillor K Thornber (Hampshire County Council); J Bonney (Hampshire Fire and Rescue); Councillor S Gorys (Hart); Councillor D Gillett (Havant); Councillor M Holding (New Forest); Councillor G Vernon-Jackson (Portsmouth); Councillor J Marsh (Rushmoor); Councillor A Vinson (Southampton)

**15.06 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman reported on a letter she had received from the Police Authority thanking this Association for its support in the successful retention of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary as a stand alone force (minute 6.06 refers).

The Chairman also reported on the successful joint Community Safety/LCJB conference held on 21 February 2006 (minute 9.06 refers).

**16.06 HAMPSHIRE RURAL PATHFINDER**

The Chairman introduced Rosalind Rutt and Merrick Denton-Thompson who gave a presentation on the Hampshire Rural Pathfinder.

The presentation focussed on:

- ! The context and approach of the Rural Pathfinder
- ! Communities and Local Food Projects

- ! Land Management Projects
- ! Options for the Future.

The presentation highlighted areas where separate national agencies were failing to provide sustainable management of the land. District Councils in particular were asked to help the County Council highlight and address these issues. The District Chief Executives' input to the Pathfinder through Dave Yates and Will Godfrey was recognised.

Merrick Denton-Thompson gave an aside on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Bill which would affect the composition of the Boards of National Parks and their ability to spend money on socio economic projects.

Hampshire County Council spoke in support of the Hampshire Rural Pathfinder and the significance in devolving decision-making to the local level was recognised.

The Chairman thanked Merrick Denton-Thompson and Rosalind Rutt for their presentation.

### **RESOLVED**

That Member authorities consider how they can take advantage of the Rural Pathfinder in Hampshire.

#### **17.06 SINGLE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER PROJECT**

Gwen Andrews (Havant) introduced the report on this subject.

The report gave details of the project, its aims, the scope of incidents the project would cover, the partnership, funding, the impact on local authorities and the police and the potential issues of concern. Consideration was also given to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Single Non-Emergency Number Project.

Mr Gibson addressed concerns from those present including:

- ! the cost and future funding of the service
- ! handling of calls and how they would be filtered to the correct local authority
- ! charging for calls
- ! cross border issues
- ! the incidents covered by the Single Non Emergency Number
- ! fears over abuse of the service and unnecessary telephone calls

The Chairman thanked Richard Gibson for attending the meeting and dealing with questions. He agreed to follow up a number of detailed concerns and suggestions.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## 18.06 **PROPOSAL FOR A HIOW CAPACITY BUILDING CONSORTIUM**

Will Godfrey introduced the report of the Director in association with the joint efficiency and human resource (HR) groups. The ODPM had proposed that HIOW authorities form a consortium to manage a total of £1m capacity building fund over two years starting April 2006.

He reported that ODPM was looking for authorities to work together on corporate projects. He proposed, and Government Office - South East (GOSE) accepted, that the capacity building work should be targeted at real benefits for services.

Will Godfrey proposed four areas of capacity building work for the Consortium initially:

- ! workforce development/HR
- ! member and staff training
- ! planning
- ! Council tax collection.

The Chief Executives' Group would put together a formal bid for funding for approval by members at the Annual Meeting on 2 June.

In discussion, Havant Borough Council said it would have problems with Council tax collaboration because the Borough was now going to tender on a new system.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Association supports the formation of a Capacity Building Fund Consortium for Hampshire and Isle of Wight and asks the Chief Executives' Group to report further.

## 19.06 **PREPARATION FOR A LOCAL GOVERNANCE WHITE PAPER 2006**

The Director briefed those present on the proposed White Paper for Local Governance. He thanked Cathy Evans, Acting Director for HIOW at GOSE for producing the briefing and quoted her in saying this was not about reorganisation. "Opting-in" would be voluntary. He also highlighted the main points set out in the briefing.

Mr Goulder gave details of a CPA workshop the Association was organising with the Audit Commission on 17 May. He would report-back on any significant outcomes from the workshop.

Those present raised concerns including:

- ! scepticism about "opting-in" being voluntary
- ! councils being affected by possible "hostile bids" from neighbouring authorities
- ! the programme being rushed through.

Rushmoor reported on a meeting which had been held with the ODPM.

It was felt that Hampshire County Council and District Councils worked well together with Unitaries as a team.

## **RESOLVED**

That a letter be sent to the ODPM expressing this Association's concerns about the proposals for a White Paper, based on wording proposed by Hampshire, Hart and Winchester, provided all Member authorities agreed.

### **20.06 "FIVE MINUTE SLOT" AND FUTURE AGENDA**

Consideration was given to the Director's report on this subject.

The report set out a number of potential matters for discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Association in June and Association meetings in September and November.

The Capacity Building Bid would be added to the agenda for 2 June.

It was also planned to invite Paul Coen, the new Director of the LGA to a future meeting.

East Hampshire requested that Disabled Facilities Grants be included as a future item.

Hampshire asked for an item on Disability Benefits and getting disabled people back to work.

Winchester asked that travelling showpeople be included in the report on Gypsies and Travellers.

Hampshire suggested that Hampshire and Isle of Wight MPs be invited to attend meetings such as this where local governance was debated by the Association.

Dave Yates gave an update on Health restructuring. An announcement would be made on 8 May. He also reported on the meeting with the Strategic Health Authority on 24 March.

The Director asked for items to be included in the 2006-2007 Action Plan.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their support over the past two years.

Winchester proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for her excellent chairmanship during her period of office. This was unanimously approved.

### **21.06 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Annual Meeting of the Association would be held at Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Andover at 10.30 am with political group meetings from 9.30 am.